

REMARKS

The Office Action of February 4, 2009 has been received and carefully reviewed. It is submitted that all bases of rejection and objection are traversed and overcome. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 13-25 remain in the application. Claims 4, 10 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice herein. Claims 18-25 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 13-17 is respectfully requested.

Claim(s) 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. The Examiner states that, while the claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to particular machine, or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. The Examiner further states that the instant claims are neither positively tied to a particular machine that accomplishes the claimed method steps nor transform underlying subject matter, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process.

Applicant has amended claim 1 herein to recite that the converting and developing steps are each accomplished via the network switch. It is submitted that this overcomes the section 101 rejection in that the steps are tied to a particular machine. Further, it is submitted that this revision is fully supported by the application as filed, at least at paragraphs [013] and [022].

Claims 4 and 12 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of claim 4 has been incorporated into claim 1; and the subject matter of claims 10 and 12 has been incorporated into claim 9. As such, it is submitted that claims 1 and 9, as well as all claims depending ultimately therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant again notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 18-25 are allowed.

In summary, claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 13-25 remain in the application. It is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in these claims is in a condition suitable for allowance.

Further and favorable consideration is requested. If the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's Attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

DIERKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

/Julia Church Dierker/

Julia Church Dierker
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33368
(248) 649-9900, ext. 25
juliad@troypatent.com

3331 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 109
Troy, Michigan 48084-2813
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JCD/jc